THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On 18 July 2001, a routine query was made by Army Headquarters to a foreign equipment supplier, with office in Delhi, seeking information about certain equipments. This was not a secret message but, an unclassified query involving no breach of security. The recipient of the message faxed the message back to Army Headquarters asking for a repeat of the message as the original fax was not legible. During this fax sent by the supplier, it appears that the telephone lines had a wrong connection and the fax which was correctly received at the Army Headquarters also got transmitted to the fax of Shri V.P. Singh.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The question does not arise in view of the answer at (c) above.

(e) Security measures are in place in Army Headquarters to ensure that national security is not jeopardized.

Setting up of Geo-spatial Technology Institute

2617. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to set up a Geo-spatial Technology Institute to cater the needs of the armed forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh has been received for setting up of such institute at Hyderabad; and

(d) if so, when such request was received and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The request received in April 2001, has been considered by the Department of Defence R&D and Department of Space, being the concerned Departments. There is no proposal for setting up of such institute.

Performance of Institute of Defence Studies Analyses

2618. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news-item captioned "Institute for Dodgy, Stolen Analyses" which appeared in the 'Hindustan

Times' dated 26.6.2001, raising serious doubts on the actual performance and capability of the prestigious Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto, alongwith contribution of the Institute during the last few years to justify continuance of an annual grant of Rs. 350 crores; and

(c) the steps taken to evaluate its performance / utility and to revamp the Institute for fulfilling its assigned role of providing direction in policy formulation on sensitive security issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Two cases mentioned are under investigation. In the case of Smt. Savita Pande, the individual has since left the Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis (IDSA). In the case of Smt. Sanjana Joshi, the Institute has initiated action to scrutinize the allegations of plagarism and action will be taken in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Institute.

The annual grant received by the IDSA is in the region of Rs. 3 crores. Regular reviews are carried out periodically of the performance of the Institute and its personnel by its Director as well as by the Executive Council of the IDSA. A review committee headed by Shri N.N. Vohra, former Defence Secretary is currently finalizing the report on the functioning of the IDSA with the view to making the IDSA a yet more efficient and effective research institute.

Recommendations of Joshi Committee

2619. SHRI R.P GOENKA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Army Headquarters has drawn up a fresh policy framework to revamp the Army, as reportedly suggested by the Lt. General Pankaj Joshi Committee; and

(b) if so, the major recommendations made by the Committee and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) A Committee under the chairman- ship of Lt. Gen. Pankaj Joshi was ordered by Army Headquarters in October, 2000 to examine and review important aspects pertaining to the Officers' cadre of the Army.

(b) The report of the Committee is under consideration of Army Headquarters.

Operation Sadbhavana Carried out by Defence Services

2620. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Operation Sadbhavana is carried out by the defence services in Jammu and Kashmir;

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.